

December 27, 2005

## News Release

## CHILD PORNOGRAPHER FOUND GUILTY FOLLOWING ICE INVESTIGATION

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 39-year-old resident of Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico was found guilty by a federal jury Wednesday for producing material containing child pornography.

Harold Ortiz-Graulau was arrested by ICE agents on June 23 at his Condado Street residence following the execution of a search warrant. His arrest stemmed from information received by the Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) alleging that he attempted to develop photographs containing child pornography at a local store.

An examination of the photographs, allegedly taken by Ortiz-Graulau, and several other materials seized by ICE, revealed an adult committing lascivious acts against a minor.

Ortiz-Graulau was indicted on July 6 for possession of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252. He subsequently pleaded guilty on Dec. 13. A superseding indictment charged Ortiz-Graulau with production of child pornography.

"There is nothing more important to ICE than protecting our children," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of the Puerto Rico ICE office. "Through Operation Predator, ICE is in a unique position to carry out this critical responsibility. We will continue to use all our resources to bring these unscrupulous child predators to justice. The exploitation of our children, the most vulnerable segment of society, is despicable and we will do our utmost to find, investigate, and prosecute those who engage in it."

Ortiz-Graulau's arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

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ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <a href="http://www.cybertipline.com">http://www.cybertipline.com</a>.

Ortiz-Graulau remains in Marshals custody awaiting sentencing.

# ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.